

Legal Nurse Consultant Rate Guide 2026

Real pricing data — hourly rates, project fees, and total costs for medical record review and expert services

- ✓ Hourly rates by service type and experience level
- ✓ Project-based pricing for medical record review, chronologies, and merit screening
- ✓ Hidden fees to watch for (rush, complex records, testimony preparation)
- ✓ How to negotiate better rates with independent LNCs and firms

How Legal Nurse Consultant Billing Works

Legal nurse consultant billing varies by engagement type, experience level, and whether the LNC is working as a consulting expert or a testifying expert. Most LNCs charge hourly, but project-based and flat-fee arrangements are increasingly common for defined deliverables like medical chronologies. Understanding the billing structure helps you budget accurately and avoid surprises.

Billing Structure Overview

Component	Description	Typical Range
Medical record review (hourly)	Review, organize, and analyze medical records	\$125-\$200/hr
Medical chronology / timeline	Detailed chronological summary of medical events	\$150-\$225/hr (or flat fee)
Case merit screening	Preliminary assessment of medical standard of care	\$125-\$200/hr
Expert consulting (non-testifying)	Assist attorney with medical understanding, depo prep	\$150-\$250/hr
Expert witness testimony	Testify at deposition or trial on nursing standard of care	\$250-\$500/hr
Life care planning	Develop future medical needs and cost projections	\$175-\$300/hr

Quick Budget Reference

- Small case record review (< 200 pages): \$500-\$1,500
- Medium case record review (200-1,000 pages): \$1,500-\$5,000
- Large case record review (1,000-5,000 pages): \$5,000-\$15,000
- Medical chronology (typical case): \$1,500-\$4,000
- Full case merit evaluation: \$2,500-\$7,500
- Expert testimony engagement (through trial): \$10,000-\$30,000+

Rates by Service Type and Experience

What Legal Nurse Consultants Charge — By Service and Credential

Rates by Service Type

Service	Independent LNC Rate	LNC Firm Rate	Notes
Medical record review & organization	\$125–\$175/hr	\$100–\$150/hr	Firm rates lower per-hour but may use junior staff
Medical chronology / timeline	\$150–\$200/hr or \$750–\$3,000 flat	\$125–\$175/hr	Flat fee based on page count
Case merit screening (standard of care)	\$150–\$200/hr	\$125–\$175/hr	5-15 hours typical for initial screening
Litigation support (depo prep, strategy)	\$150–\$250/hr	\$125–\$200/hr	Higher for specialized consulting
Expert witness testimony (deposition)	\$250–\$400/hr	\$300–\$500/hr	Testifying rate always higher than consulting
Expert witness testimony (trial)	\$300–\$500/hr	\$350–\$500/hr	Highest rate; includes prep time
Life care planning	\$175–\$275/hr	\$150–\$250/hr	Specialized skill; fewer LNCs offer this
Medical literature research	\$125–\$175/hr	\$100–\$150/hr	Finding and summarizing relevant studies

Rates by Experience Level

Experience	Hourly Rate Range	Profile
Entry-level (< 3 years LNC, no LNCC)	\$75–\$125/hr	RN with recent LNC training; limited case experience
Mid-career (3-10 years LNC, LNCC preferred)	\$125–\$200/hr	Solid case portfolio; specialty expertise developing

Experience	Hourly Rate Range	Profile
Senior (10+ years LNC, LNCC certified)	\$175-\$275/hr	Extensive testimony experience; recognized in specialty
Expert witness / testifying expert	\$250-\$500/hr	Published; deposition/trial experience; specialty authority

LNCC certification typically commands a 25-40% rate premium

over non-certified LNCs. The LNCC (Legal Nurse Consultant Certified) is the only nationally accredited legal nurse consulting credential and signals demonstrated competency to courts.

Project-Based Pricing

Flat-Fee and Per-Page Pricing for Common Deliverables

Deliverable	Pricing Model	Typical Range	What's Included
Medical chronology (< 500 pages)	Flat fee	\$750-\$2,000	Chronological timeline, provider identification, key event flagging
Medical chronology (500-2,000 pages)	Flat fee	\$2,000-\$5,000	Same as above with more complex multi-provider records
Medical chronology (2,000+ pages)	Per-page or hourly	\$0.75-\$2.00/page or \$150/hr	Large-volume cases; nursing home, chronic condition
Case screening / merit report	Flat fee	\$1,500-\$5,000	Written assessment of standard of care, causation, damages
Medical summary (narrative format)	Flat fee	\$1,000-\$3,000	Narrative summary of medical events; less formal than chronology
Demand letter medical section	Flat fee	\$500-\$1,500	Detailed medical narrative for demand package
Literature search and summary	Flat fee	\$500-\$1,500	Search, retrieve, and summarize relevant medical literature
Life care plan	Flat fee	\$3,000-\$10,000	Comprehensive future care needs assessment with cost projections

Per-page vs. hourly — which is cheaper?

For straightforward records (single-provider, organized), per-page pricing (\$0.75-\$2.00/page) is often cheaper. For complex, disorganized, multi-provider records, hourly billing is fairer — per-page pricing doesn't account for difficulty.

Rates by Specialty Area

LNC Rates by Clinical Specialty

Specialty	Rate Premium	Why	Demand
Medical-surgical nursing (general)	Baseline	Most common LNC background; largest supply	High
Critical care / ICU	+10-20%	Complex cases; ventilator, sepsis, trauma	High
Emergency / trauma nursing	+10-20%	ER standard of care cases; high-acuity	High
Obstetric / labor & delivery	+15-25%	Birth injury litigation; specialized knowledge critical	Very high
Pediatric / NICU	+15-25%	Pediatric malpractice; emotional cases; few LNC experts	High
Oncology	+10-20%	Cancer diagnosis/treatment malpractice	Moderate
Geriatric / long-term care	+10-15%	Nursing home neglect/abuse; high volume	Very high
Psychiatric / behavioral health	+15-25%	Suicide risk assessment; restraint cases	Moderate
Orthopedic / rehabilitation	+10-15%	Fall injuries; surgical complications	Moderate
Cardiac / cardiovascular	+10-20%	Heart attack misdiagnosis; surgical complications	Moderate

Match the LNC's clinical specialty to your case.

An OB nurse reviewing an orthopedic case, or an ER nurse reviewing a psychiatric case, adds limited value. The LNC's clinical specialty should match the medical issues in your case for meaningful standard-of-care analysis.

Hidden Fees & Add-Ons

Always get an all-inclusive quote. The hourly rate is rarely the final number. Budget 15-25% above the base estimate for add-ons.

Add-On	Typical Cost	When It Applies
Rush / expedited turnaround	+25-50%	Deliverable needed in less than 1 week
Complex / disorganized records surcharge	+15-25%	Records that are not paginated, not in chronological order, or handwritten
Multiple provider records	+10-20%	Cases involving 10+ healthcare providers
Electronic health record (EHR) extraction	\$200-\$500	Converting EHR exports to reviewable format
Travel to deposition / trial	Actual cost + travel time	Out-of-area testifying engagement
Travel time billing	50-100% of hourly rate	Time spent traveling to/from engagements
Deposition preparation	Full hourly rate (4-8 hrs)	Prep for testimony
Trial preparation	Full hourly rate (8-16 hrs)	Prep for trial testimony and demonstratives
Supplemental review (new records)	Hourly rate	Additional records produced after initial review
Consultation calls (attorney)	Hourly rate (0.5-hr minimum)	Phone consultations billed in minimum increments
Copies / printing	\$0.10-\$0.25/page	Physical copies of chronologies and reports

Request a flat-fee quote for defined deliverables (chronology, merit screening) whenever possible. This shifts the risk of disorganized records and unexpected complexity from you to the LNC — and eliminates billing surprises.

How to Negotiate Better Rates

Numbered list

- 1 Request flat-fee proposals for defined deliverables.** Medical chronologies, merit screenings, and demand letter sections are ideal for flat-fee pricing. Hourly billing is better for open-ended consulting.
- 2 Provide organized records.** Paginated, chronological, indexed records reduce LNC hours by 20-40%. Use a medical records service to organize before sending.
- 3 Start with case screening before full review.** Pay for a 5-10 hour merit screening (\$750-\$2,000) before committing to a full engagement. Kill weak cases early.
- 4 Compare independent LNC vs. LNC firm.** Independent LNCs charge less overhead but may have longer turnaround. LNC firms offer faster turnaround with team resources but at 10-25% higher rates.
- 5 Negotiate volume contracts.** Firms with regular LNC needs can negotiate 15-20% discounts on retainer agreements.
- 6 Use LNCs as consulting experts first.** A consulting (non-testifying) LNC costs \$125-200/hr. Only elevate to testifying expert (\$250-500/hr) when testimony is actually needed.
- 7 Bundle multiple cases.** If you have 5+ cases needing review, negotiate a batch rate 10-15% below standard pricing.
- 8 Avoid rush fees.** Plan ahead — a 2-week turnaround costs 25-50% less than a 3-day rush. Only rush when litigation deadlines require it.
- 9 Use per-page pricing for straightforward records.** For organized, single-provider records, per-page pricing (\$0.75-\$2.00/page) is cheaper than hourly for most cases under 500 pages.
- 10 Get three quotes.** Rate variation between equally credentialed LNCs can be 30-50%. Always compare at least 2-3 providers.

Budget Planning Worksheet

Use this worksheet to estimate total legal nurse consultant costs. Print and fill in for each case.

Line Item	Estimated Cost	Actual Cost
Medical record review (est. hrs or flat fee)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Medical chronology / timeline	\$ _____	\$ _____
Case merit screening	\$ _____	\$ _____
Attorney consultation calls	\$ _____	\$ _____
Medical literature research	\$ _____	\$ _____
Deposition preparation (if testifying)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Deposition testimony	\$ _____	\$ _____
Trial preparation (if testifying)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Trial testimony	\$ _____	\$ _____
Rush / expedited surcharge	\$ _____	\$ _____
Travel (if out-of-area testimony)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Supplemental records review	\$ _____	\$ _____
20% contingency buffer	\$ _____	\$ _____
TOTAL ESTIMATED	\$ _____	\$ _____

Complete this worksheet before requesting quotes. Knowing the approximate page count, number of providers, and whether testimony is anticipated lets the LNC provide an accurate estimate.

CTA box

Want a quick sanity check on your numbers? Email this worksheet to contact@incscout.com or browse legal nurse consultants at [Incscout.com](https://incscout.com)

LNCScout

LNCScout

The most comprehensive directory of legal nurse consultants in the United States

Find LNCs at lncscout.com